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FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9797
INFO RUEHZA/WHA CENTRAL AMERICAN COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 0789

UNCLAS SAN JOSE 000458

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR WHA/CEN AND DRL/MLGA DWALTERS.

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: COSTA RICA TO SUPPORT, NOT COSPONSOR PRISONERS OF
CONSCIENCE DECLARATION

REF: A. STATE 40380

[1](#)B. SAN JOSE 366

[1](#)C. SAN JOSE 391

[1](#)1. (U) On May 22, we delivered the Department's talking points on WHA arguments against the Prisoners of Conscience Declaration (provided by Joseph Rees, Acting DAS, IO Bureau, via email) to the MFA's Chief of Staff Antonio Alarcon and to working-level MFA personnel.

[1](#)2. (SBU) On May 28, we followed up with the MFA's Deputy Director of Foreign Policy, Alejandro Solano, who told us that Costa Rica's main complaint was that the GOCR had not been consulted during the formulation process of the declaration. The MFA emphasized to us that writing such a declaration, with the knowledge of Costa Rica's interest and support of human rights without consultations during the drafting of the declaration, showed a lack of respect to the country. Therefore, he said, the GOCR would not sign on as a co-sponsor since the declaration was delivered to them with a "take it or leave it approach," with no opportunity to shape the declaration's content.

[1](#)3. (SBU) Solano added that Costa Rica, however, would vote in favor of the declaration in the UN. Nevertheless, upon receiving our points last week, he revisited the matter with FM Bruno Stagno, and the GOCR's decision not to cosponsor, due to being left out of the drafting process, was final.
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